lifts involved etc. The project can be implemented with the technical know-how and expertise available within the country. There are many schemes executed in India for diversion of water from a basin to another like Parambikulam-Aliyar, Telugu Ganga Canal etc. and that experience would certainly help in the planning and execution of the link projects.

Diversions of river water in Kerala

1377. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are six illegal diversions of Bhavani river water above the Attapady Hills flowing to Kerala resulting in acute water shortage in the tribal belt;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the waters of Varagar and Kodunagarapallam were diverted to the Kunha hydel-cum-irrigation project making both the rivers dry, creating acute water shortage in Attapadi Valley;

(d) whether the competent authority in Kerala brought the above illegal diversions to the notice of the competent authority; and

(e) if so, the action taken against the above diversions in details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The State of Tamil Nadu before 1956 constructed upper Bhavani dam in the upper reaches of Bhavani river for diversion of 3 Thousand Million Cubic feet (TMC) of water to Kundah river, a northern tributary of Bhavani river having most of its catchment in Tamil Nadu. After 1956, the State of Tamil Nadu constructed East Varagarpallam and West Varagarpallam dams on East Varagar and West Varagar tributaries of Bhavani for diversion of 0.004 TMC of water to Kundah river. Besides, the State of Tamil Nadu diverts 2 TMC of water at Chaliar to Kundah.

(d) and (e) As per the decisions taken by the Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the presence of Union Minister of Irrigation and Power in the discussions held on 10.5.1969 at Trivandrum, Kerala was permitted to utilize 2.5 TMC of water in Bhavani for irrigating Attapadi Valley land after the construction of Siruvani reservoir. However, the State

of Kerala could not utilise the agreed quantity of water due to severe financial constraints. The State of Kerala has sanctioned a scheme in September, 1997 for utilisation of 0.718 TMC of water of Bhavani river for irrigating 2000 ha. of land and for providing drinking water supply for a population of 22000 in the drought prone areas of Mannakkad, Anamooli and Thenkara villages of Palakkad district and has started construction of the same. The State of Tamil Nadu has objected to the undertaking of construction of the scheme by the State of Kerala and filed Petition before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in January, 2003. The Tribunal has listed the matter for 6th March, 2003.

Survey regarding declining water level

1378. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey on constantly declining water level in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by Government on the survey report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) A long-term analysis of ground water levels by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources during the years 1982-2001 indicates decline in ground water levels by more than 4 metres in some districts of various States of the country, including the State of Gujarat. The names of the States/districts having pockets with fall in water level in the last twenty years (1982—2001) are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government has initiated following measures to recharge the underground water source:—

(i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country.